

Vote NO on SB 6668 and SB 1178 Carmon Community Funeral Homes Before the Labor and Public Employees Committee Hartford, CT March 9, 2023 Testifying in opposition to:

SB 6668: An Act Modernizing the Paid Sick Day Statutes

SB 1178: An Act Expanding Connecticut Paid Sick Days

Senator Kushner, Representative Sanchez, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. My name is John Carmon and I am the President of Carmon Community Funeral Homes. I am writing today in opposition to SB 6668 and SB 1178.

Connecticut currently has a paid sick leave law that applies to businesses with 50 or more employees that employ a list of occupations called 'service workers'. Service workers can earn 1 hour of paid leave for each 40 hours worked, maxing out at 40 hours per year. The law also exempts manufacturers and certain non-profits.

When the original bill passed in 2021, it was only a matter of time before there would be a proposal to expand it. One of the biggest issues the business community currently faces is a workforce shortage. Expanding the most generous paid sick leave law in the nation will certainly not help the workforce shortage, but it will certainly tack on additional costs for employers.

One of the bills also allows for the AGs office to intervene and handout fines for not keeping accurate logs of employees' sick leave. Who's going to enforce this? Will small businesses be trained on the new requirements? Regardless, this is just another hurdle for anyone trying to start or run a business in Connecticut. For service firms, it puts a greater burden on the other staff who have to carry the service load. There just aren't enough people in the workforce to fill in for those who aren't working.

Since taking effect in 2012, those subject to the new law saw a cost increase of 2-5%, and there is no tangible data that shows less employee turnover or illness in the workplace.

I urge the committee to oppose SB 6668 and SB 1178.

Thank you,

John Carmon, President